

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES

GLN-004US

DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

09/743127

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

PCT/CH99/00283

June 30, 1999

July 6, 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION

WATCH EQUIPPED WITH MEANS FOR DETERMINING A LOCATION LONGITUDE

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Eric A. LOTH, Pierre-Andre FINAZZI

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).
8. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made, however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
9. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
10. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
11. ☒ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/ISA/409).
12. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
20. ☒ Other items or information:

DEPOSITED BY U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. ET159018035US on January 3, 2001

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (UNKNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

097743127

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/CH99/00283

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

GLN-004US

21. The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):

- ☐ Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,000.00
- ☒ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00
- ☐ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00
- ☐ International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00
- ☐ International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$860.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). ☐ 20 ☐ 30

\$0.00

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	15 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$860.00

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Applicants are entitled to claim small entity status ☒

\$430.00

SUBTOTAL = \$430.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). ☐ 20 ☐ 30

\$0.00

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$430.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). ☐

\$0.00

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$430.00

Amount to be refunded \$
charged \$

- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. **110227** in the amount of **\$430.00** to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **110227** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Deborah G. Vandenhoff
Registration No. 45176
Van Tassel & Associates
P.O. Box 2928
Bellair, TX 77402-2928



Customer Number: 26003

26003

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

SIGNATURE

Deborah G. Vandenhoff

NAME

45176

REGISTRATION NUMBER

January 3, 2001

DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	PCT/CH99/00283	Group Art Unit	Not yet assigned
Int'l Filing Date	June 30, 1999	Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
First Named Inventor	Eric LOTH	Attorney Docket No.	GLN-004US
Title: WATCH EQUIPPED WITH MEANS FOR DETERMINING A LOCATION LONGITUDE			

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 3, 2001

Dear Sir:

The above-identified international application is entering the National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 simultaneously herewith. Kindly amend the application in the following manner:

IN THE CLAIMS

3. (Once Amended) Watch according to claim 1 [or 2], characterised in that said ring (44) encircles the dial (32) and in that the hour hand (24) is extended by an arrow (26) up to the vicinity of the ring (44), which is of greater length than the minute hand.

4. (Once Amended) Watch according to [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, characterised in that it further includes a display surface (54) in polar co-ordinates, with an angular indication of the months and days of the year and a radial indication in the shape of a curve (50) relative to the equation of time, and an index (48) mounted to move in rotation opposite the display surface and bearing a reading scale (52) for determining the equation of time.

EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail No: ET159018035USDate of Deposit: January 3, 2001

This correspondence is being deposited with the Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service of the United States Postal Service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

6. (Once Amended) Watch according to claim 4 [or 5], of the type including a case (10) with a back cover (40), characterised in that said index (48) is mounted so as to move on the back cover of said case.

7. (Once Amended) Watch according to [any of claims 4 to 6] claim 4, characterised in that the scale (45) borne by the ring (44) includes indices defining fractions of a degree for values comprised between $+5^{\circ}$ on either side of said index mark, to facilitate adjustment of the equation of time.

8. (Once Amended) Watch according to [any of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, characterised in that the dial (32) and the ring (44) each bear a scale defining a vernier, to improve the equation of time adjustment precision.

9. (Once Amended) Watch according to [any of claims 1 to 9] claim 1, characterised in that it further includes a disc (22) completing one revolution in 24 hours, in synchronism with the hour hand (24) and bearing data relative to the cardinal points.

10. (Once Amended) Watch according to [any of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, characterised in that it further includes a device for determining the sun's altitude above the horizon including a diaphragm (70) for defining a light ray of small section, a frosted surface (78) onto which said ray is projected.

11. (Once Amended) Watch according to claim 12 [or 13], characterised in that said device is made of tempered plate glass or sapphire.

12. (Once Amended) Watch according to [any of the claims 11 to 14] claim 11, characterised in that it further includes a case and a wristband and in that said device is associated with said wristband.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to change dependencies in claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, and 15.

5 It is respectfully submitted that no new subject matter has been introduced by way of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted:

10 By: 

Deborah G. VandenHoff
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 45,176

15 Van Tassel & Associates
P.O. Box 2928
Bellaire, TX 77402-2928
Ph: (713) 839-1749
Fax: (713) 839-1790

20

09/743127

Case 0144

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27 (c))
Small Business Concern

Application No.	09/743,127	Patent No.	
Filing Date	June 30, 1999	Issue Date	
Inventors	LOTH, Eric A. FINAZZI, Pierre-André	Attorney Docket No.	GLN-004US
Title: WATCH EQUIPPED WITH MEANS FOR DEFINING A LOCATION LONGITUDE			

I hereby declare that I am:

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below.
☐ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below.

NAME OF CONCERN: The British Masters SA

ADDRESS OF CONCERN: Avenue Léopold-Robert 23, CH -2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the above identified invention described in:

- ☐ the specification to be filed herewith.
☐ the application identified above.
☐ the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) or by any other concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

09/743127.0000001

- ☐ No such person, concern or organization exists.
☐ Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27).

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

☐ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING

ERIC A. LOTH, CHETIV DES PALMIERS 10, CH-2504 BIENNE
 SWITZERLAND
 PRESIDENT

TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING
 OTHER THAN OWNER

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING:

CHETIV DES PALMIERS 10, CH-2504 BIENNE SWITZERLAND

SIGNATURE



DATE:

24.02.01

71P&K

WATCH EQUIPPED WITH MEANS FOR DETERMINING A LOCATION LONGITUDE

The present invention relates to a watch intended to define a location longitude. Such watches are well known to those skilled in the art. One of them is disclosed in Swiss Patent No. 184 338. It includes three hands each

5 moving opposite a graduated circular dial. The hands and the dials are concentric. The first dial bears a scale each division of which corresponds to 1° of arc, placed opposite a hand completing one revolution in 40 minutes. The second dial bears a graduation of 36 divisions each of which corresponds to 10° of arc placed opposite a hand completing one revolution in 24 hours.

10 The third dial bears a graduation of 60 divisions each corresponding to a minute of arc placed opposite a hand completing one revolution in four minutes of time. The watch further includes a ring for modifying the position of the dials in order to allow adjustment relative to the equation of time. The watch was, for example, intended for aviators to let them to know their

15 position. It permits precise determination of longitude, but is not convenient for reading the time. It must in fact remain adjusted to the time of the place of departure. Moreover, the hands rotate at an unusual angular speed.

French Patent No. 852 214 relates to a watch including two discs displaying

20 the hour and the minute.

A third disc, which is concentric, allows longitude to be determined, insofar as the true time of the place considered is known.

25 German Patent No. 25 104 84 and US Patent No. 2,560,618 disclose devices for determining a location longitude and latitude. These devices cannot be associated with a watch.

Finally, French Patent No, 460 311 discloses an astronomical instrument

30 allowing one to take bearings, track a star, etc..

Today, the GPS system allows the position of a location to be defined with much greater precision than that achieved with a conventional timepiece. People who have to know their position with precision can thus use this

35 system without any problem. However, no means exist which are simple to use and allow explanation and understanding of what longitude is and how it

09/743127-000004

can be determined with reference to time, and to the movement of the sun relative to the earth. In order to assure these functions, it is necessary to be able to use a commonly used object, involving simple and easily comprehensible manipulations which is easy to read.

5

The present invention relates to a watch of common use, which includes a wheel completing one revolution in 12 hours and bearing an hour hand, a wheel completing one revolution in one hour and bearing a minute hand, and a dial. The main object of the invention is to allow the time to be read easily and a location longitude to be determined in a simple and easily comprehensible manner.

10

This object is achieved as a result of the fact that the watch according to the invention includes a rotating ring for reading longitude, bearing an index mark and, therefrom, a scale in degrees covering an angle of 180° over the whole of its periphery and that the dial is equipped with a circular scale for selecting a time zone, with a median point corresponding to the top point of the dial and a graduation covering 12 hours over the whole of its periphery, the value of the graduation of the scale in degrees being equal to 15 times the value of the graduation of the hour scale for the values located opposite each other, when the index mark coincides with the median point.

15

20

Advantageously, the scale of the ring, expressed in degrees, extends from 0° to 90° on either side of the index mark, and the circular scale, borne by the dial and intended for selecting a time zone, bears a graduation going from 0 to +6 hours or -6 hours from the median point, according to the rotational direction.

25

As soon as longitude is measured with a single hand, the hour hand, the scale must be as large as possible. However, in a watch, this hand is generally the shortest. In order to overcome this drawback, the ring encircles the dial so as to provide the largest scale possible, and the hour hand is extended by an arrow up to the vicinity of the ring, its length being greater than that of the minute hand. Consequently, longitude can be read with great precision.

30

35

Furthermore, the end of the hour hand is never masked by the minute hand. It is thus possible to read longitude even when the minute hand is superposed on the hour hand.

- In order to be able to define longitude with a certain precision, it is necessary to take account of the difference between mean time and true solar time, called the equation of time. For this purpose, in a particular embodiment, the watch includes a display surface in polar co-ordinates, with an angular indication of the months and days of the year and a radial indication in the form of a curve relative to the equation of time, and an index mounted so as to move in rotation opposite the display surface and bearing a reading scale for determining the equation of time. The index is advantageously mounted so as to pivot in the back cover of the watch.

- In order to define longitude one has to know the angular displacement of the sun in its course from the temporal difference corresponding to the equation of time. In order to simplify reading, the index includes two diametrically opposite arms, one of which bears a scale in degrees of angle and the other a scale in minutes of time.

- Longitude reading precision depends on that assured during the entry of the adjustment required by the equation of time. For this purpose, the ring includes indices defining fractions of degrees for values comprised between $\pm 5^\circ$ on either side of the index mark.

- Longitude reading precision may be improved by using the vernier principle. For this purpose, the dial and the ring on the one hand, the ring and the hour hand on the other hand each bear a scale to define two verniers respectively allowing the equation of time adjustment to be entered and longitude to be read in a more precise manner.

- Determination of longitude requires knowledge of the orientation of the median plane. This information may be given, at least approximately, by a watch equipped with a solar compass, including a disc completing one revolution in 24 hours, in synchronism with the hour hand and bearing data relating to the cardinal points.

- Defining the sun's meridian passage is difficult without a compass. However, the information given by a solar compass can only be approximate, as long as the location longitude is not known. The addition of a magnetic compass

takes a lot of space and lacks precision, because of the shift between the magnetic pole and the geographical pole. In order to remove this difficulty, the present invention also relates to a device for determining the sun's altitude above the horizon. Indeed, by definition, the sun's meridian passage corresponds to its greatest altitude above the horizon.

One solution consists in using the gnomon principle, i.e. arranging a rod vertically and defining when the shadow is shortest. This method is uncertain, since if the rod is not perfectly vertical, this may result in a large difference between the moment when the shadow is shortest and the real meridian passage. There exist other means, for example the theodolite, for taking a more precise measurement. These means are however, voluminous and expensive.

Another object of the present invention is to allow the sun's altitude above the horizon to be determined, with inexpensive means of small dimensions which may even be integrated in a watch. The watch according to the invention is thus equipped with a device including a diaphragm for defining a light ray of small section and a frosted surface onto which the ray is projected.

In a particular embodiment, the device includes a body made of transparent material, of substantially prismatic shape, with two substantially parallel opposite faces and an oblique face connecting the two opposite faces and which includes a substantially central transparent opening, intended to let a light ray penetrate the body, surrounded by an opaque surface, in which the opposite faces are arranged so as to reflect the ray. In this device, one of the opposite faces includes a frosted surface and a scale opposite the surface, to evaluate the movement of the sun above the horizon. Such a solution certainly does not allow an absolute measurement of the sun's altitude; however the moment when it reaches its apogee can be defined with a good level of precision. This is made possible as a result of the fact that the sun ray is reflected several times inside the device, which allows the linear movement to be amplified and thus to be made perceptible.

Such a device associated with a watch could be quickly scratched depending upon the material used. This problem may be avoided by making it in tempered plate glass or sapphire.

- 5 In order for this device to fully fulfil its function, it is desirable for it to be permanently associated with the watch and able to be used simultaneously when the dial is read. The present invention thus also relates to a watch equipped with a wristband with which the device is associated.
- 10 Other advantages and features of the invention will appear from the following description, made with reference to the annexed drawing, in which:
- Figures 1 and 2 show, in plane, a watch according to the invention, displaying two different states;
- 15
- Figure 3 is a partial view, in cross-section of the watch of Figures 1 and 2;
 - Figure 4 shows, in plane, the back cover of the watch of Figures 1 to 3; and
 - Figure 5 illustrates a device for measuring the sun's altitude above the horizon.

As can be seen most particularly in Figure 3, the watch according to the invention includes a case 10, containing a watch movement 12 of entirely conventional design and equipped with wheels 14, 16, 18 and 20, shown schematically and respectively completing one revolution in 24 hours, 12 hours, 60 minutes and 60 seconds.

Each of these wheels carries a display member. More precisely, wheel 14 carries a disc 22, provided with diametrically opposite indications N - S (Figures 1 and 2), having a solar compass function, as will be explained hereinafter.

Wheel 16 carries an hour hand 24 completing, in a conventional manner, two revolutions per day. Hand 24 is provided with an arrow 26 the usefulness of

which will be specified hereinafter. Wheels 18 and 20 respectively carry minute hand 28 and second hand 30.

Movement 12 further carries a dial 32 provided with a window 33 and a date disc 34 visible through said window.

Dial 32 includes an indication 35 including, at midday, the letters GM and, on either side, distributed over a semi-circle, the figures 1 to 6, with the + sign in the clockwise direction and - in the anticlockwise direction (Figures 1 and 2). Indication 35 specifies the time zone to which the displayed time relates.

Case 10 is provided, in a conventional manner, with a middle part 36, a crystal 38, a back cover including two portions 39 and 40 connected to each other by a hinge 41, and a time-setting stem 42. It further carries a rotating ring 44 and a crown 46 for controlling rotating ring 44. The latter is provided with a longitude scale 45, in degrees, starting from an origin 47 and extending over a semi-circle, both in the clockwise and anticlockwise direction, each semi-circle corresponding to 90° of longitude.

In a variant, it is also possible to have asymmetrical scales. In each case, ring 44 bears a scale covering an angle of 180° over the whole of its periphery and scale 33 of the dial includes a graduation covering 12 hours over the whole of its periphery, the graduation of the degree scale being equal to 15 times the graduation of the hour scale for the values located opposite each other, when index mark 47 coincides with median point 35.

As can be seen schematically in Figure 4, portion 40 of the back cover bears an index 48, mounted so as to pivot in a sliding manner and a stamped curve 50, corresponding to the equation of time shown in polar co-ordinates. Index 48 includes two arms respectively provided with a scale 52 graduated in minutes and a scale 53 graduated in degrees of arc. The back cover bears a calendar indication 54 engraved on a circle encircling curve 50 and able to be swept by the end of index 48. The date thus corresponds to the angular co-ordinate and the equation of time to the radial co-ordinate.

In order to access this data, the user has to open the back cover by raising portion 40. This may advantageously occur by means of a so-called case-spring system, such as used in Lépine type watches.

03743427-030004

The watch as described and shown, permits several complementary functions to the conventional time functions, namely approximate determination of the meridian plane, longitude definition and definition of the equation of time.

The meridian plane, which is a vertical plane passing through the north-south axis at a given location, is indicated approximately by the N-S indications carried by disc 22 when hour hand 24 is pointed towards the sun. Such a construction is called a solar compass.

For the meridian plane to be defined precisely, the watch would have to display the solar time of the location and take account of the equation of time. The indication given is thus not sufficient to measure longitude.

The device shown in Figure 5 allows the sun's apogee to be determined with a precision comparable to that obtained in longitude determination. It includes a body of prismatic shape 60 with two parallel faces 62 and 64 and an oblique face 66 connecting the two parallel faces 62 and 64.

Oblique face 66 is partially covered with an opaque layer 68, defining a substantially central slot 70 having a diaphragm function. This slot 70 is intended to let a light ray shown at 72 and coming from the sun pass through it. Opposite faces 62 and 64 are arranged so as to reflect light ray 72. They carry, for example, metal layers 74 and 76. The top face 62 is only partially covered. It includes a frosted surface 78, at its end opposite to side 66, through which ray 72 exits body 60 and forms an image 79 in a point dependent on the sun's altitude above the horizon. A graduated scale 80 is placed beside frosted surface 28, so as to be able to detect the movement of the image on the frosted surface. A sun shield 82 partially masks surface 78, so that image 79 of opening 70 is visible on frosted surface 78. This device is advantageously made of tempered plate glass or sapphire, in order to prevent it being scratched.

By sizing the above device so that it has a thickness of 3 mm for a length of approximately 20 mm, with an inclination of side 66 of close to 45 degrees, a variation in the sun's altitude of 1 degree substantially corresponds to a movement of image 79 of 1 mm.

Other similar solutions may be envisaged to perform this function. The device will however include at least one diaphragm to define a light ray of adequate section, a frosted surface onto which the light is projected and an index mark for evaluating the movement of the sun. The presence of a reflective surface in the path comprised between the diaphragm and the frosted surface allows a more compact structure to be obtained. In order to prevent the sun's illumination making it difficult to perceive the image on the frosted surface, it is advantageous to provide a sun shield.

Prior to explaining how longitude is determined, it has to be understood what the equation of time is. It is known that the time between two passage of the sun in the meridian plane varies from one day to another. The difference with respect to mean time as measured by a watch is called the equation of time. This difference corresponds to curve 50 and can be read by means of graduated scale 52.

Longitude is the angle formed by two planes passing through the poles, one through Greenwich, the other through the location being considered. Knowing that the relative movement of the sun and the earth has a periodicity of 24 hours, one need only know the sun's meridian passage for the location being considered, expressed in Greenwich time, then convert such time into an angle - 24 hours corresponding to 360 degrees - to define longitude. In order to do this, one must however know to which time zone the time indicated by the watch according to the invention refers. This information is entered by moving ring 44 by means of crown 46, so that origin 47 is located opposite the value of graduated scale 52 corresponding to the time zone whose time is displayed by the watch.

The equation of time is determined by means of index 48, which is placed opposite the current day. The value of the adjustment to be made, provided by the intersection of index 48 with curve 50, is read on graduated scale 52. The adjustment is then entered, by moving rotating ring 44 so that the index is offset with respect to the time zone, by a value corresponding to the equation of time.

The orientation of the meridian plane, and more particularly the direction of south, is approximately defined. When the observer wishes to define the longitude of a location in which he is situated, he must also have available means allowing the sun's altitude above the horizon to be defined, so as to know the moment at which it is highest, which corresponds to the meridian passage. He may, at that moment, read the longitude on ring 44, indicated by arrow 26.

This may be achieved by placing the watch equipped with the device as shown in Figure 5 and oriented in the direction of the sun on a substantially plane surface. The observer can then see image 79 moving across frosted surface 78. The meridian passage corresponds to the moment at which the image stops and changes direction. He can then read, at that instant, the value indicated on ring 44 located opposite arrow 26, which corresponds to the longitude.

If reference is made to Figure 2, the procedure can be better understood. The situation of the different components of the watch corresponds to reading the longitude of New York. This city is located in a time zone which is 5 hours behind Greenwich mean time. The user thus places bezel 44 so that index 47 is located opposite indication -5 of scale 33 carried by dial 32. The current date is 18 July. He opens the back cover of his watch and places index 48 opposite this date t and can thus read the equation of time which substantially corresponds to an adjustment of 1.5° . The user then makes this adjustment to ring 44, so that the index of scale 33 bearing the indication -5 is located opposite 1.5° of scale 44.

In this position, the user places his watch on a plane surface, so that the device of Figure 5 is substantially oriented towards the sun. Image 79 then appears on frosted surface 78. As long as the sun is rising above the horizon, the image moves away from oblique surface 66. When the sun has reached its apogee, the image stops. At that moment, the user can read the longitude value, which corresponds to the indication on scale 45, opposite arrow 26 of hour hand 24, i.e. 72° longitude west.

In a variant which is not shown, the dial bears a scale opposite scale 45, the scale divisions of which are in a ratio of 9 to 10 to define a vernier allowing

precision to be improved upon entering the equation of time. A comparable solution may be used to improve the reading of longitude by using a graduated scale at the end of hand 24, replacing arrow 26.

As was explained hereinbefore, the longitude scale borne by ring 44 is limited to 180° . This is due to the fact that the hour hand makes two revolutions per day. The watch thus described allows longitude to be measured between 90° west and 90° east. It is however easy also to find the longitude for the other half of the earth by taking the meridian passing through the Greenwich antipode as a reference and by adding 180° to the value measured, east longitudes being considered to be negative.

CLAIMS

1. Watch intended for defining a location longitude, including a wheel (16) completing one revolution in 12 hours and carrying an hour hand (24), a wheel completing one revolution in one hour and carrying a minute hand (28), and a dial (32), characterised in that it further includes a rotating ring (44)
- 5 for reading longitude, bearing an index mark (47) and, therefrom, a scale (45) in degrees covering an angle of 180° over the whole of its periphery, in that the dial (32) is equipped with a circular scale (33) for selecting a time zone, with a median point (35) corresponding to the top point of the dial and a graduation covering 12 hours over the whole of its periphery, the value of
- 10 the graduation of the scale in degrees being equal to 15 times the value of the graduation of the hour scale for the values located opposite each other, when said index mark (47) coincides with said median point (35).
2. Watch according to claim 1, characterised in that the scale (45) in
- 15 degrees, extends from 0° to 90° on either side of said index mark and in that the circular scale (33) for selecting a time zone bears a graduation going from 0 to +6 hours or -6 hours from the median point (35), depending on the direction of rotation.
- 20 3. Watch according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that said ring (44) encircles the dial (32) and in that the hour hand (24) is extended by an arrow (26) up to the vicinity of the ring (44), which is of greater length than the minute hand.
- 25 4. Watch according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that it further includes a display surface (54) in polar co-ordinates, with an angular indication of the months and days of the year and a radial indication in the shape of a curve (50) relative to the equation of time, and an index (48) mounted to move in rotation opposite the display surface and bearing a
- 30 reading scale (52) for determining the equation of time.
5. Watch according to claim 4, characterised in that said index (48) includes two diametrically opposite arms, bearing a scale relative to the equation of time, on one in degrees of angle and on the other in minutes of
- 35 time.

6. Watch according to claim 4 or 5, of the type including a case (10) with a back cover (40), characterised in that said index (48) is mounted so as to move on the back cover of said case.

5

7. Watch according to any of claims 4 to 6, characterised in that the scale (45) borne by the ring (44) includes indices defining fractions of a degree for values comprised between $+5^{\circ}$ on either side of said index mark, to facilitate adjustment of the equation of time.

10

8. Watch according to any of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the dial (32) and the ring (44) each bear a scale defining a vernier, to improve the equation of time adjustment precision.

15

9. Watch according to claim 8, characterised in that the hour hand (24) and said ring (34) each bear a scale defining a vernier to improve longitude reading precision.

10. Watch according to any of claims 1 to 9, characterised in that it further includes a disc (22) completing one revolution in 24 hours, in synchronism with the hour hand (24) and bearing data relative to the cardinal points.

20

11. Watch according to any of claims 1 to 10, characterised in that it further includes a device for determining the sun's altitude above the horizon including a diaphragm (70) for defining a light ray of small section, a frosted surface (78) onto which said ray is projected.

25

12. Watch according to claim 11, characterised in that said device includes a body (60) made of transparent material, of substantially prismatic shape, with two opposite substantially parallel faces (62, 64) and an oblique face (66) connecting the two opposite faces and which includes a transparent substantially central opening (70), intended to let a sun ray penetrate said body and surrounded by an opaque layer (68), wherein said opposite faces (62, 64) have surfaces arranged so as to reflect said ray (74, 76), and wherein one of said faces (74) includes a frosted surface (78) on which an

30

35

image (79) of the opening (70) appears, which moves as a function of the sun's altitude.

13. Watch according to claim 12, characterised in that said device further
5 includes a scale (80) opposite said surface (78), for facilitating the evaluation of the sun's altitude.

14. Watch according to claim 12 or 13, characterised in that said device is made of tempered plate glass or sapphire.

10

15. Watch according to any of the claims 11 to 14, characterised in that it further includes a case and a wristband and in that said device is associated with said wristband.

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

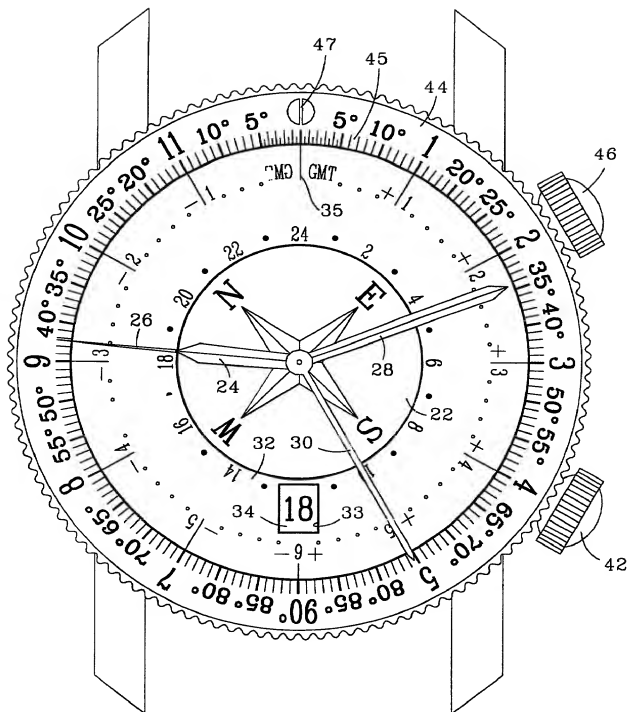


Fig.1

2/5

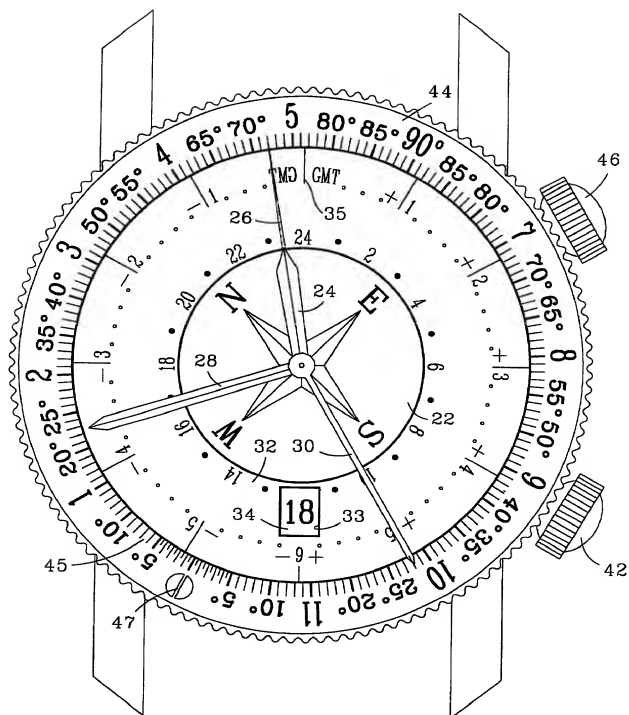


Fig.2

3/5

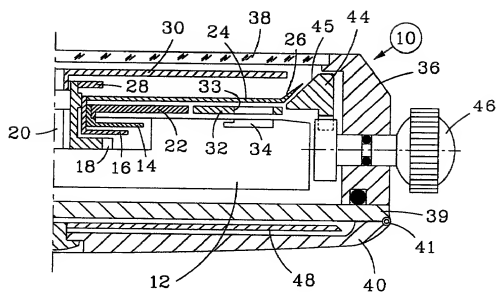


Fig. 3

4/5

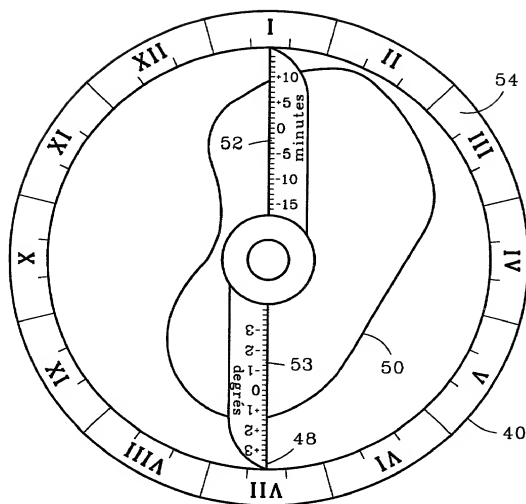


Fig. 4

5/5

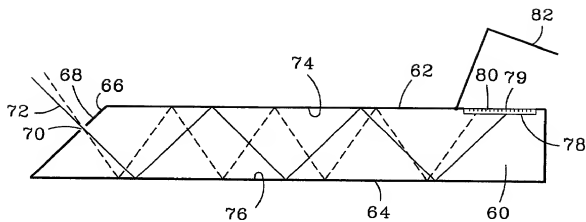


Fig. 5

DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)		Attorney Docket Number	GLN-004US
		First Named Inventor	Eric A. LOTH
		Application Number	09/743,127
		Filing Date	June 30, 1999
		Group Art Unit	Not yet known
<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted With Initial Filing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37CFR 1.16(e)) required)		Examiner Name	Not yet known

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below under my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if more than one name is listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

WATCH EQUIPPED WITH MEANS FOR DETERMINING A LOCATION LONGITUDE

the specification of which

☐

is attached hereto.

☒

was filed on June 30, 1999 as United States Application No. 09/743,127 or
(Filing Date MM/DD/YY)

PCT International Application No. _____ and was amended
(Number)

on _____
(MM/DD/YY, if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

98/08712
(Number)

France
(Country)

July 6, 1998
(Filing Date)

☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Filing Date)

☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Filing Date)

☐

Priority Not Claimed

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Number) (Filing Date)

(Number) (Filing Date).

(Number) (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

PCT/CH99/00283

(Number)

June 30, 1999

(Filing Date)

Pending

(Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

(Number) (Filing Date)

(Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

(Number) (Filing Date)

(Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Kurt D. Van Tassel
Deborah VandenHoff

Registration No. 36,956
Registration No. 45,176

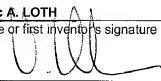
Send Correspondence to:

Van Tassel & Associates
P.O. Box 2928
Bellaire, Texas 77402-2928
Customer No. 26003

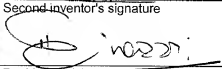
Direct Telephone Calls to: (Name and Telephone Numbers)

Kurt Van Tassel (713) 839-1776 or Deborah VandenHoff (713) 839-1749

1-00

Full name of sole or first inventor	
Eric A. LOTH	
Sole or first inventor's signature 	Date 24.02.01
Residence (city, state/country)	
Bienne, Switzerland CHX	
Citizenship	
Switzerland	
Post Office Address	
Chemin des Palmiers 10, CH-2504 Bienne, Switzerland	

2-00

Full name of second inventor	
Pierre-André FINAZZI	
Second inventor's signature 	Date 24 Feb. 2001
Residence (city, state/country)	
La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland CHX	
Citizenship	
Switzerland	
Post Office Address	
Rue du Commerce 17, CH-2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland	